

FF Special Retirement Coverage

Standard Position Description (SPD)# F244

Certification of CSRS Primary (FF) coverage approval for the above SPD can be found in the signed OPM general coverage certification letter dated 07/29/91.

Certification of FERS Primary-Rigorous (FF) coverage approval for the above SPD can be found in the signed DOI general coverage certification sheet dated 10/02/91.

POSITION DESCRIPTION (Please Read Instructions on the Back)

F244

2. Reason for Submission <input type="checkbox"/> Redescription <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Reestablishment <input type="checkbox"/> Other		3. Service <input type="checkbox"/> Hdqtrs. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Field		4. Employing Office Location		5. Duty Station		6. OPM Certification No.	
7. Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> Exempt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nonexempt				8. Financial Statements Required <input type="checkbox"/> Executive Personnel Financial Disclosure <input type="checkbox"/> Employment and Financial Interests				9. Subject to IA Action <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
10. Position Status <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Competitive <input type="checkbox"/> Excepted (Specify in Remarks) SES (Gen.) <input type="checkbox"/> SES (CR)				11. Position Is: <input type="checkbox"/> Supervisory <input type="checkbox"/> Managerial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neither		12. Sensitivity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-Non-Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/> 3-Critical Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/> 2-Noncritical Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/> 4-Special Sensitive		13. Competitive Level Code	
14. Agency Use									

15. Classified/Graded by	Official Title of Position	Pay Plan	Occupational Code	Grade	Initials	Date
a. U.S. Office of Personnel Management						
b. Department, Agency or Establishment						
c. Second Level Review	Forestry Technician (Smokejumper)	GS	462	07		11/21/90
d. First Level Review						
e. Recommended by Supervisor or Initiating Office	Forestry Technician (Smokejumper)	GS	462	07	dp	10/24/90

16. Organizational Title of Position (if different from official title) Smokejumper		17. Name of Employee (if vacant, specify)	
18. Department, Agency, or Establishment DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR		c. Third Subdivision	
a. First Subdivision Bureau of Land Management		d. Fourth Subdivision	
b. Second Subdivision		e. Fifth Subdivision	

19. Employee Review—This is an accurate description of the major duties and responsibilities of my position.

20. Supervisory Certification. I certify that this is an accurate statement of the major duties and responsibilities of this position and its organizational relationships, and that the position is necessary to carry out Government functions for which I am responsible. This certification is made with the knowledge that this information is to be used for statutory purposes relating to appointment and payment of public funds, and that false or misleading statements may constitute violations of such statutes or their implementing regulations.

a. Typed Name and Title of Immediate Supervisor		b. Typed Name and Title of Higher-Level Supervisor or Manager (optional) L. BARKOW Ch Fire & Aviation	
Signature	Date	Signature (signed) L. BARKOW	Date JAN 18 1991

21. Classification/Job Grading Certification. I certify that this position has been classified/graded as required by Title 5, U.S. Code, in conformance with standards published by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management or, if no published standards apply directly, consistently with the most applicable published standards.		22. Position Classification Standards Used in Classifying/Grading Position GS-455/462	
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Typed Name and Title of Official Taking Action JULIET D. POWELL Personnel Management Specialist		Information for Employees. The standards, and information on their application are available in the personnel office. The classification of the position may be reviewed and corrected by the agency or the U.S. Office of Personnel Management. Information on classification/job grading appeals, and complaints on exemption from FLSA, is available from the personnel office or the U.S. Office of Personnel Management.	
Signature <i>Juliet D Powell</i>	Date 11/21/90		

23. Position Review	Initials	Date	Initials	Date	Initials	Date	Initials	Date	Initials	Date
a. Employee (optional)										
b. Supervisor										
c. Classifier										

24. Remarks
SUBJECT TO DRUG TESTING

Forestry Technician (Smokejumper), GS-462-7
Smokejumper
Position No. F244

INTRODUCTION

This position is located within the Alaska Fire Service, Bureau of Land Management. The incumbent serves in a wide variety of technical roles in the direct suppression of wild fires in Alaska, Canada and the Western States.

MAJOR DUTIES

Serves as Smokejumper in initial attack (IA) of wildfires by parachuting into fires and mountainous terrain and landing in timber or on open ground. Retrieves parachutes from trees using climbing spurs and belts in addition to gathering paracargo. Performs other duties such as parachute rigging and repair, loading and dropping of paracargo, and other duties in support of fire operations.

May serve as a firefighter, fireline supervisor, technical specialist, or incident commander in suppression of wildfires. On fireline, determines suppression techniques in fire line construction, burning out fuels, and mopping up by digging out sparks within established perimeter. Identifies appropriate safety areas for escape from fire-blowups, identifies other hazards on line to protect fire crews, and patrols fire line to assure compliance with operation plans. Protects point of origin in case of man-made fires.

May lead firefighters as initial attack commander. Develops strategy and tactics for suppression of wildfires. Anticipates fire behavior, establishes anchor point (s) and best location for firelines. Assesses operational needs and orders additional IA personnel and equipment as needed. Continually evaluates fire behavior by conducting aerial and ground reconnaissance modifying tactics according to fire's rate of spread, weather, fuels, and topography. Identifies suppression requirements and hazards to firefighters. In air operations, plans and directs pilots and air attack personnel in paracargo drops, retardant drops from air tankers, or bucket drops from helicopters.

May lead firefighters as extended attack commander. Determines when fire has escaped initial attack capabilities, reevaluates strategy and tactics, and orders additional personnel equipment and supplies. Reassigns IA forces in extended fire organization and supervises tactical, logistical and air operations section to meet fire complexity.

Serves as technical specialist by performing work in a wide variety of special fire functions such as Strike Team Leader or Task Force Leader, Fireline Explosives Blaster, rapid response (parachuting) or large fire emergency Medical Technician, and Helibase Manager. Fills other support roles on wildfires and performs other jobs in fire suppression operations such as paracargo specialist and assistant spotter.

Performs a wide variety of equipment readiness projects: Parachute rigging, parachute loft manufacturing and repairs (designing, cutting and sewing jump equipment and repairing parachutes using industrial sewing machines to meet FAA certification specifications). Maintains fire-ready stores of paracargo supplies, fireline explosives, and EMT airdrop supplies.

Participates in a daily physical conditioning program to assure physical stamina for firefighting.

Performs a wide variety of project work from fire suppression demonstrations to assisting in prescribed burning. During non-fire periods engages in building maintenance, trail clearing, facilities upkeep, and other projects.

Serves as instructor during formal and OJT training sessions in preparing other smokejumpers for fire operations.

FACTORS

Factor 1, Knowledge Required by the Position

Must have knowledge, skills and abilities specified in the ICS qualification standard for this position and grade level. It has been determined that the employee in this position must have prior line firefighting experience and training to perform the duties of the position.

Knowledge of smokejumper techniques and safety procedures sufficient to successfully jump from aircraft into rugged timber and mountainous terrain or on open ground; skill in parachute manipulation to avoid other smokejumpers, ground hazards and land in designated areas.

Knowledge of wild fire behavior sufficient to develop suppression strategy and tactics; to determine fire behavior as affected by weather, fuels and topography; to determine appropriate use of air tankers for delivery of fire retardants, and helicopters for bucket drops; and to build fire lines and correct construction errors.

Knowledge of air operations and air safety procedures sufficient to compute load calculations for helicopters; to construct temporary landing areas for helicopters; to direct safe and effective air tanker retardant, paracargo and helicopter bucket drops from fireline; and to follow proper aviation transportation and fueling procedures.

Knowledge of methods and techniques used in rehabilitation of soils to mitigate fireline construction and prevent erosion of fragile soils and ground covering vegetation and Arctic permafrost.

Skill in using a wide variety of firefighting tools such as chain saws, pumps, drip torches, pneumatic torches, fireline explosives, and hand tools.

Knowledge and skill in one or more of the smokejumper specialty areas: parachute rigging, parachute repair, jump equipment constructing and repair, paracargo rigging and delivery, emergency medical treatment, use of fireline explosives, and methods used in Rookie Smokejumper Training and Refresher Training.

Skill in outdoor survival sufficient to construct a dry shelter, build a fire, and use a compass and map to travel through forested areas and other areas having few land marks.

Ability to communicate orally and use handheld radios to transmit information and to receive and exchange operational information.

Factor 2, Supervisory Controls

The supervisor assigns work in terms of objectives to be accomplished in suppression of wildfires and completion of project work. At fires, the incumbent is independently responsible for determining fire suppression strategy and tactics, to gain control of wildfires by developing suppression plans, and providing leadership to suppression forces. Incumbent is responsible for taking full charge of initial attack fires and increasing forces according to the fire control requirements until directed otherwise by the Zone Fire Management Officer or designated official. The supervisor spot checks work for technical adequacy by review of fire reports and zone evaluations and by checking completed project assignments.

Factor 3, Guidelines

Guidelines include BLM, USFS and OAS suppression and air operations manuals. On fireline, the incumbent must apply judgement in determining the best method of achieving control of wildfires by determining need for additional firefighting forces and selecting tactics based on fire behavior as influenced by weather, fuel type, and topography. The incumbent must adapt procedures to meet emergency situations encountered.

Factor 4, Complexity

The work consists primarily of smokejumping into wildfires as the initial attack firefighting force in Alaska and directing or working as a firefighter in stopping the fire spread, extinguishing hotspots, removing fuels and establishing fireline. The rapidly changing factors that influence fire behavior such as fuels, weather, topography, and rate of fire spread demand constant vigilance and quick independent action for safety and successful achievement of the mission. The incumbent will be assigned the duties of squad leader, crewboss, Strike Team Leader (EFF Crews), director of aerial retardant drops, Heliport Manager/Supply (locate site, clear and operate), Dozer Boss or any other specialty role required in the control effort by the Incident Commander according to the incumbent's location on the fire and availability.

Factor 5, Scope and Effect

The purpose of the work is to serve as a smokejumper, leader, or technical specialist of initial attack firefighting force to swiftly gain control of wildfires. The work performed by the employee and others directly affects preservation of wildlife habitat, protects local economy, and protects both private and public properties.

Factor 6, Personal Contacts

Personal Contacts are with crew leaders and individual crew members, other fire personnel, pilots, and other contractors. Contacts are also with personnel from other Federal, state and private agencies.

Factor 7, Purpose of Contacts

Contacts are to plan and carry out initial and extended attack fire assignments and to coordinate ground and air fire operations in suppression of wildfires. Contacts are also to critique effectiveness of suppression efforts to resolve problems encountered for improvement of future operations.

Factor 8, Physical Demands

The incumbent must be in good physical condition and regularly pass a strength and aerobic fitness test. Work involves extreme physical exertion, including carrying 110 pound packs for several miles through rugged terrain and working with backpack of 35 pounds in addition to working with handtools that weigh 5 pounds or power tools that weigh 10 to 15 pounds. Work shifts are generally 12 to 16 hours, but can be up to 19 hours a day, seven days a week while working on fireline.

Factor 9, Work Environment

Most work is outdoors in a variety of weather and terrain conditions. The incumbent risks death or serious injury during parachute jumps, cargo dropping, and helicopter take-offs and landings from temporary landing sites. Life threatening hazards on the fireline include intense heat, falling trees, tumbling debris, smoke, and other hazards. The remote work areas increase exposure to natural elements.